



GHAMIDI CENTER OF ISLAMIC LEARNING

Sunday School SYLLABUS

Course Name: Building Character Through Quran

Course Stage: Intermediate

Stage Theme: Quran and Sunnah

Level: 4

Ages: 12-13 years

Version: 2

www.ghamidi.org/sunday-school

**Al-Mawrid USA
Ghamidi Center for Islamic Learning**

Overview

This course is the first concrete step toward discussing the topics at length about developing a strong Islamic moral character that is at the core of this program. Extensive research on character development shows that the initial years are critical in children's moral and emotional development. Traditionally, Muslim children are taught to focus only on performing the worship rituals to attain inner purity, which tilts the balance towards the rights of Allah SWT while completely neglecting the rights of fellow human beings. This course aims to perform a much-needed paradigm adjustment and create that much-needed balance between Allah's rights and fellow human beings' rights. The course will dive deep into Quran and Sunnah for the gems they offer on character building. Examples from Quran and Sunnah will be included on various human virtues and how Allah SWT and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encourage Muslims to incorporate these virtues into their character.

Objectives:

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Describe what kind of character Allah SWT wants from them
- Examine their character and compare it with what they have learned
- Improve their interaction and relationship with people around them
- Identify situations where they can make a difference due to moral behavior

Delivery Method:

This course will be taught through various methods, including lectures, storytelling, small projects/homework, and class discussions on topics and situations.

Course Outline:

The following list is comprised of suggested topics for the course. The topics may be slightly adjusted in content and order based on the need of the class. Additional reading material (if needed) for each session will be available for download from the web portal a week before the session.

***Note:** A weekly lesson plan or outline will be created based on these topics in which practical aspects of the course and exercises will be incorporated into the weekly lessons.*

1. Introduction

- › Our course
- › What do we want to learn?
- › The significance of the good character in Islam
- › Good character and religion
- › How can we benefit from this course?

2. Ethics and Morality – Setting the Foundation

- › Ethics and morality – the definitions and difference
- › Human vs. animals – what sets us apart?
- › Who sets the standards for right and wrong?
- › Example of Able and Cain
- › A parable from Hadith
- › Islam's approach towards ethics and morality
- › Relations and Morality
- › God's attributes, human nature, and morality
- › Strengthening character is a lifelong struggle
- › **Discussion Point:** What are the benefits of acquiring high morals?

3. Islamic Etiquette

- › Religious and cultural etiquettes
- › Examples of religious etiquette and cultural etiquette
- › Eating Etiquettes
- › Salutation and Greeting among Muslims
- › Utterances after Sneezing
- › Various instructions on personal hygiene (Cleanliness)
- › Some more customs and practices
- › **Discussion Point:** Why Allah SWT have given instructions about things that are quite personal in nature?

4. Basic Manners

- › When greeting non-Muslims
- › When visiting people in their houses

- › When having guests in your house
- › When talking to elders, young and friends
- › Think before you speak because angels are writing
- › Common Courtesies: Make a queue & Ask before you take
- › Take responsibility for your actions and refrain from blaming others
- › Sharing and Caring
- › Social media etiquette – Netiquette
- › Let your manners speak for you
- › **Discussion Point:** Advantages and disadvantages of social media

5. Humility & Humbleness

- › The concept of humility and humbleness
- › Humility is the hallmark of servants of Allah (Quran called them l'baad-ur-Rahman)
- › Humility is at the core of many virtues
- › Humility and prayers
- › Humility and self-esteem
- › From the life of companions
- › From the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › **Discussion Point:** If both Satan and Adam disobeyed Allah, then why were they not treated in the same manner?

6. Gratitude

- › The concept of gratitude
- › All gratitude belongs to Allah SWT
- › The gratitude of heart, tongue, and actions
- › Beings grateful is a trial from Allah SWT
- › Quran equates ungratefulness to disbelieve
- › Gratitude to fellow human beings
- › Gratitude to our parents
- › Count your blessings, if you can (how to be grateful)
- › Examples from Quran and Prophet's life
- › **Discussion Point:** Should I show gratitude when I am deprived?

7. Arrogance, Vanity, and Show-off

- › The concepts
- › The concept of Arrogance in Islam
- › Quran on Arrogance
- › Arrogance and Satan
- › Arrogance is the mother of all evil
- › Things that can make us arrogant
- › Healthy pride
- › The vanity and show-off of Qaroon (Korah), a man from the Children of Israel
- › Show off – Its dangers
- › How to avoid arrogance, and pride and show off

- › **Discussion Point:** What are the examples of vanity and show-off from your daily experience?

8. Justice

- › The concept of justice
- › Allah SWT's stress on justice
- › Adhere to justice even if it is against your own self, your relatives or in favour of your enemies
- › Consequences of Injustice
- › How to respond to Injustice
- › **Discussion Point:** Why do we need a Day of Judgment?

9. Courage

- › The concept of courage
- › Courage in our words and actions
- › Demonstration of courage
- › Anger and courage
- › Examples from Quran and Prophet's life
- › **Discussion Point:** Is it courageous to fight a bully in your school?

10. Mercy

- › The concept of mercy
- › Being merciful to the creation of Allah SWT is the means for receiving the mercy of Allah SWT
- › Who deserves our mercy?
- › Mercy to our parents
- › From the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › **Discussion Point:** Does mercy contradict justice?

11. Truthfulness

- › The concept of truthfulness
- › Quran's demand on truthfulness
- › Lying and its consequences
- › From the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › **Discussion Point:** Are there situations when telling the truth may not be the right thing to do?

12. Honesty

- › The concept of honesty and the difference between honesty and truthfulness
- › Honesty in actions and dealings
- › Trust and honesty
- › The effects of dishonesty in a society
- › From the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › **Discussion Point:** Can I be honest and wrong at the same?

13. Patience

- › The concept of patience
- › The difference between patience and passiveness
- › A trial from God
- › Patience is the most admirable quality of a believer
- › Companions of patience
- › Patience in our relationships
- › Occasions of patience
- › How to achieve patience?
- › Examples from Quran and Prophet's life
- › **Discussion Point:** What examples of passiveness do we mistake for patience?

14. Forgiveness

- › The concept of Forgiveness
- › How to repent?
- › Adam and Satan
- › Forgiving others
- › The companions of forgiveness
- › Forgiveness in Quran
- › Forgiveness is not an excuse to sin
- › A companion's story
- › From the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › Beautiful duas for forgiveness
- › **Discussion Point:** How do I forgive someone I despise?

15. Sympathy

- › The concept of sympathy
- › Who needs our sympathy?
- › The concept of brotherhood/sisterhood in Islam
- › Guidance from Sunnah
- › Examples of Sympathy
- › Sympathy creates the bond
- › From the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › **Discussion Point:** How to sympathize with a murderer?

16. Selflessness

- › The concept of selflessness
- › Symbol of selflessness
- › Selflessness in Islam
- › Balancing between selfishness and selflessness
- › A story
- › **Discussion Point:** What are the reasons and times to be selfish?

17. Kindness

- › The concept of kindness
- › Kindness in relationships
- › Kindness to our parents
- › Kindness to animals
- › Stories of kindness
- › Examples from Quran and Prophet's life
- › **Discussion Point:** Why do the parents deserve the most kindness from me?

18. Charity & Generosity

- › Charity and generosity
- › Charity in Islam
- › The upper hand is better than the lower hand
- › Charity in Quran
- › Levels of Faith
- › Charity around you
- › Generosity
- › A Story from the life of Prophet Muhammad
- › A Story from the Quran
- › **Discussion Point:** How can I be charitable; I don't have any money.

19. Modesty

- › The concept of modesty / Haya
- › Three characteristics of a Muslim Society
- › Modesty in Islam explained
- › Modesty defines levels of faith
- › Being modest in modern times
- › Haya manifested in our appearance
- › How to gain and maintain Haya
- › A story of modesty
- › Quick Recap
- › **Discussion Point:** Can peer pressure encourage or discourage modesty?

20. Respect

- › The concept of respect – a forgotten virtue in our society
- › Three characteristics of a Muslim Society
- › Self-respect
- › Respect God
- › Respecting in relationships
- › Respecting places of worship
- › Respecting other's ideas and opinions
- › Respecting other's privacy and personal space
- › Etiquette of disagreement
- › Examples from Quran and Prophet's life

- › **Discussion Point:** Do movies teach me to be respectful to my parents and elders?

21. Keeping Promises

- › The concept of keeping promises
- › Importance of fulfilling contracts
- › Keeping your promise promotes trust
- › Punctuality – a promise fulfilled
- › Avoid false promises
- › Examples from Quran and Prophet's life
- › **Discussion Point:** What should I do if I can't keep my promise?

22. Habits

- › The concept of habit
- › The role of habits in moral development
- › Examples of good habits and morals
- › A bad habit can make a big sin look insignificant
- › Fixing bad habits
- › Fix the source – the heart
- › Guidance from Prophet Muhammad
- › **Discussion Point:** One habit that I want to get rid of? And one good habit that I want to build.

23. Scenarios – Applying your knowledge in daily life situations

- › **Discussion:** Good character brings happiness in your life
- › **Situation 1:** I don't have much what other people have
- › **Situation 2:** I have to be just with someone who I really despise
- › **Situation 3:** I want to turn enemies into friends
- › **Situation 4:** I want to be non-judgmental when dealing with others
- › **Situation 5:** Someone hit me, and I am mad
- › **Situation 6:** I just learned that my good friend is sick
- › **Situation 7:** I am new to a school and I am looking for new friends
- › **Situation 8:** I got \$500 on my birthday and I want to spend it
- › **Situation 9:** My younger brother is annoying mom while she is cooking
- › **Situation 10:** I did not get good grades this year, but my friend did
- › **Situation 11:** I got detention in school and my mom is asking me what happened
- › **Situation 12:** I hurt my friend's feelings and he/she is mad
- › **Situation 13:** Someone sent me a message that my friend has done something really bad and he/she wants me to forward it to everyone so that everyone knows
- › **Situation 13:** My friend sometimes steals things in school, and I have to do something about it
- › **Situation 14:** I am embarrassed that all of my friends have the new iPhone while I am still using the older model

- › **Situation 15:** I cannot believe that I just found \$20 on the floor in the school
- › **Situation 16:** My grandmother is visiting us, but my friends want me to spend time with them
- › **Situation 17:** My mom is angry at something, and I did not like it at all